Present STATE of PHYSICK
and the
ISLAND of CAJAMAI.

TO
The MEMBERS of the R. S.

GENTLEMEN,

S I am an Admirer of your Performances, I conſtantly Study your Lucubrations, and would think it an Honour to add ſomething to your Labours. I have Obſerv'd, ſome time ago, that you have Inform'd us of the Progreſs of Anatomy in *China*, and therefore, I hope to do ſome Service, by giving you ſome ſhort Account of the Progreſs of Medicine in *Cajamai*, not doubting to give full as much Satisfaction to the World by it, as you have done by the former.

At my first arriving on *Cajamai*, my Valitudinary State of Health made me inquire into their Physicians, and as it likewise oblig'd me to be a frequent Reader of Medicine, I was the better able to make Choice of the Person I would trust with my Life. I found several of that Profession in this unciviliz'd Part of the World, and these both White and Black Physicians. *Hercules* a Black Overseer and Doctor, took most in that Island, Cured many Diseases with simple Medicines, but was more especially Noted for the Cure of Claps: At length a White Physician of a Superiour Genius arriving, *Hercules* himself became his Patient, and submitted in every thing to him: So that, at once he was Strong in Reputation on the Island, and outshone the Black as much as the Sun does the Black of Night; tho' he serv'd poor *Hercules* a curvy Trick, and left him to die of his old Distemper under a very ill Cour[illegible] as will hereafter appear.

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Thus common Fame led me first to this White Physician. I told him I was Sickly, and would gladly know from a Person of his illustrious Character, what Method was most Proper to be taken; in order to preserve my Health, in this Climat so very different from that where I was Bred, and had Liv'd many Years. I cannot deny but that he Answer'd me with great Civility and Seriousness, but he was not easily Understood. *He desir'd me to Eat only what was fitting.* But as that was the thing I wanted to be inform'd about; I desir'd to know what was thus Proper, and fit to be Eaten. Which he was more particular, and desir'd me *to use the Non-naturals with Moderation.* 2. *To use Exercise*, and 3. so to use them as to be able to resist any *unavoidable* Disease. A Merchant of a Cholerick Constitution askt where these Non-naturals grew, for his Part, for as long as he had Liv'd in [illegible] never heard of any such Rarities. Quoted [illegible] give the Doctor to understand that my Ques[illegible] answer'd and that his Answer was in a Lang[illegible] Stranger to, tho' he gave me but little Sa[illegible] Request. The Expression, I thought Inoffensive, put him into a Passion; so that he told me, with a Grimace, I expected preaching Popish. But he would give me a Demonstration, about the Impossibility of preservative Physick, and then give me the Perusal of his Observations for just Eighteen Years,

viz.

after his long and successful Practice.

'Tis from this his elaborate Account, I am able to give you the state of Physick in the Island of *Cajamai*; which I would now begin, but that I know you expect his Demonstration against preventing, or preservative, Physick; a Part of Physick the wisest Physicians in all former Ages have endeavour'd to Cultivate, and Improve. *If you give Physick*, said he, *to a Person in Health, it makes no Alteration at all in the Body, and then it does not deserve the Name of Physick, but is a Chip, and so consequently a needless Trouble, and good for nothing. Or it must make an Alteration in those, who being supposed perfectly Well in Health, must by it be changed, and made Sick.* This Argument was deliver'd with so much Assurance, and even Grimace, as if no Reply could be made to it. However, I told him, that I was neither for Chip-Physick, nor Killing Physick; tho' I fear'd there was little of the first Sort. But I desir'd the Physick of his first Branch, that was no Chip, and yet would keep me from Changes in my Health. Now I had reason to think there might be such Physick, not only from the Attempts of that kind, I have heard of among Physicians; but even from what he told me himself; *that a right Use of Not-naturals was sufficient to resist an unavoidable Disease.* But he still stuck to his *Dilemma*, till I chang'd the Terms a little thus. Eating and Drinking can, at best, but keep any Person in the State of Health, he Enjoys, and then 'tis a Chip, or by it he is made Sick, or is Poison'd; and therefore Eating and Drinking is a Naughty, Ridiculous Custom, that ought to be put out of Fashion; and it is equally Ridiculous to inquire after a Method to become Invulnerable, as to keep your Health by Eating and Drinking, the Absurdity he Alledges against preventing Physick. Upon this he left me his Compleat and All-sufficient Practice, he had Collected with great Care, and Application, for Twenty Years.

This White Physician is said to be a Subject of *Great Britain*; tho' by his *Name, some Expression of Curing unavoidable Diseases, the last Part of his Dilemma*, and his Phrase of Mr. *B.* being Faint and Weary after Vomiting and Bleeding, he adds, *and for the fainting Relief in drinking Madera Wine and*

Water for the present, I rather take him to be my Country-Man of *Holland*.

Then as to the Collection it self, I do not find any thing of Diseases being describ'd, or of any Causes alleaged, which may produce them; and yet the Book seems design'd for a Guide to young Beginners, who are not always the most Expert, or ready in Collecting the Symptoms of a Disease, or of deducing them from their Causes. They are not got these Lengths in *Cajamai*, as we may Charitably conclude from these Observations of their most eminent Physician; tho' these have been examin'd after twenty Years Practice, and this Collection is more like a House-Wife's Receipt Book, or as Physick was said to be in its first Age.

And as for their Administring of Bleeding, and other Remedies, I find them appointed without any other distinction, than of some small Consideration they have to the Ages of Men, and some general and obscure Account of Sanguin, or Cholerick Constitutions in some faint Imitation of Ancient Writers.

As for Anatomy, or Chymistry, they are altogether Contemn'd and thought of no Use by this great Physician, tho' he first establish'd himself in the Island, by extraordinary Pretences to that Learning, and Vaunting of the great Feats were to be perform'd, with the help of knowing these Parts of Physick.

You see, too, how much they disregard Arithmetick, Chronology, &c. For in a most precise and exact way of Speaking, he makes it just Eighteen Years between 1687 and 1707, the times of his first Ariving on *Cajamai* and of this Recognition of his Observations.

But, as he seems to put a mighty Value on his Collection, wherein he seems to have Practis'd in all Diseases, I shall Faithfully relate what appears to me most singular, leaving it to the Learned Members of the Society of *England* to Judge of his Performances. His own Words are, *This may be useful to some, and I am sure would have been to me, had I been so fortunate*.

twenty before my going thither, as to have met with any ſuch OBSERVATIONS.

Accordingly, *Captain* Nowell, *aged about Forty, Cholerick, he was ill of a* Cholera Morbus, *Vomiting, and going often to Stool. And becauſe he was weak, and not able to bear any farther Evacuation, had* 15 *Drops of* Laud. Liquid. Cydoniat. *in a convenient Vehicle. His Vomiting being ſtopp'd, he gave him for His Looſneſs* Decoct. Alb. *for his ordinary Drink, and order'd him Rice-Milk, and Milk-Meats for his Food,* &c. Now to proceed no farther on this fertile Obſervation; it does not appear that he had a *Cholera Morbus*, except every Looſneſs with Vomiting conſtitute that Diſeaſe, which is not ſo clear from Phyſick-Books. Next, let us ſuppoſe it to be a *Cholera Morbus*; what has this Guide of any Uſe, that is not to be found in every Book, which treats of that Diſtemper; but eſpecially in Doctor *Sydenham*, whoſe Words this White Doctor recites: So that they who have Doctor *Sydenham* has no want of his Obſervation. Nay, it were far better to fly to this Refuge of *Opium*, as Dr. *Sydenham* expreſſes it, in large Doſes, than to practiſe with under Doſes with this unskilful White Phyſician.

'Tis indeed a common Fault among Phyſicians, to name only the Diſeaſes they pretend to Cure; ſo that when this their Practice comes to be rely'd upon by another, he finds himſelf often diſappointed: And therefore, if Phyſicians durſt truſt themſelves, and would deſcribe the Diſeaſes, they value themſelves for Curing, their Obſervations might come to be of great Uſe, and they provide better for their Reputation. This is manifeſt from the Caſe of Mr. *Mark Collet*, who took Phyſick firſt from the Ship-Doctor, with a Deſign to cure a continued Fever; though this White Doctor cured him with the *Jeſuits*-Powder, and from thence concludes that it was an intermitting Fever. Now whether they were both right, is hard to determine. It might be, at firſt, a continual Fever, and then degenerate into an intermitting Fever, about the time the White Doctor ſaw him, or the *Jeſuits*-Powder might have cured this continued Fever: None of theſe are clear by the White Doctor's Obſervation. All he ſays is, *It was a while before I, who was generally in another Ship, could find out the Intermiſſion, the Fever being ſcarce ever off.* So that 'tis plain, it was ſometime before any thing of

Intermiſſion.

Intermiſſion was alledg'd or imagin'd, and next it was an Intermiſſion with the Fever hardly off; or an Intermiſſion, and hardly or *ſcarcely* an Intermiſſion: Which is a moſt diſtinct Obſervation.

I am mightily inclined to favour my White Phyſician, but that I find him blaming the Ship-Doctor for Bleeding and Bliſtering him; and yet he himſelf does the ſame, when *Mark* had another intermitting Fever afterwards, in *Cajamai*. *N. B.* He Bled and Bliſter'd him, the Patient being delirous: So that univerſally, whoever is delirous, muſt be Bled and Bliſter'd; which is new, and worth every Phyſician's Imitation or Examination at leaſt.

After this notable Rule for Bleeding and Bliſtering, there properly follows a very ſingular Obſervation of *Mr.* Anthony Gamble, *aged about Forty Five, a Cook. He fell into very great Pains in his Belly, which was Bound. I,* ſays the White Doctor, *gave him ſome* Extractum Rudii, *to Looſen his Belly,* which not ſucceeding *he had Gliſters, Suppoſitories, Decoctions, Boluſes of* Theriac. Venet. It had been of ſome Uſe to young Practitioners to have the Forms of theſe many unſucceſsful Purges, as alſo the Compoſitions of the Decoctions, Gliſters, and Suppoſitories. I hope the Doctor was not afraid of expoſing himſelf, by giving us an Account of his under-doſing this Patient; and yet this muſt be the Caſe, or that he may think theſe young Practioners, who want his Obſervation, cannot fail of the due Doſes of purging Medicines; which is not to be ſaid.

I was the moſt ſurprized to find *Venice-Treacle* rank'd among the Numbers of theſe Purges *Anthony* took to no purpoſe; becauſe in all the other Books I chanc'd to read, it is ſaid to have quite contrary Effects. Nay the Doctor himſelf uſes it to ſtop a Looſneſs that attended a *Hectick*-Fever, which is one of the worſt ſort. *He gave every Evening a Scruple of* Venice-Treacle *and a Grain of* Laudanum, *which ſtopp'd not only his Looſneſs, but other Symptoms too,* viz. *his Feveriſh Pulſe, troubleſome Cough, and Emaciation.*

I have often doubted, whether *Venice-Treacle* might not be a Purge like *Rhubarb*, which firſt purges, and then cures the Looſneſs; but I doubt he would not have even given *Rhubarb*,

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in this *Hectical*-Looſneſs. Theſe my Conjectures, and the Doctor's Experience, I ſubmit entirely to the Judgment of the *Royal Society*. I wiſh too it might be conſider'd, whether the Changes that may happen to this *Treacle*, between *Venice* and *Cajamai*, may not occaſion its purging Quality there, quite otherwiſe than its Effects are in *Italy*.

This Phyſician was more ſucceſsful in curing Fevers, than others in *Cajamai*, whether they were Black or White; and always cur'd all his Patients by a Cool Regimen. 'Tis only remarkable that a Child of Colonel *Fuller*'s died. *He was about twelve Years of Age, had been in a Fever for ſome time, and was in Convulſions, cold Sweats*, &c. *his Pulſe quick and low.* To remedy theſe fatal Symptoms, Fore-runners of unavoidable Death, he had the cool Regimen; *he was Cupp'd, with Scarification in the Shoulders, taking away ſome Blood. But in ſome Hours, his Weakneſs increaſing, he died* or he was cool'd. I remember an Inſtance of this kind that happen'd lately: For one who was *managed* by Bleeding in the Agony of Convulſions, and cold Sweats, died much after the ſame manner.

Great Care though was taken to keep young Mr. *Fuller* from cooling too faſt; for he had a little hot Regimen too; *Cordials with* Confect. Alkerm. Aq. Cinamom. Syr. Cariophyllor. *&c. and Bliſters with* Sp. C·C· & Ol. Succin. A very excellent Modern Receipt for a Bliſter: Nay, *ſome Drops of which laſt were given him inwardly.*

In this, the good Temper of the White Phyſician is to be commended, that he would try the hot Regimen, he ſo much declares againſt, though perhaps too late, when he found this Patient was going off under his cold Regimen.

But not to purſue this Melancholly Account any farther; the poor Mother of young *Fuller* was like to have follow'd her Son into another World, much oppreſs'd with Grief and Tears, but for a Bottle of *Salarmeniack*, Philoſophically, Prepar'd by our White Phyſician. The Secret of which Bottle, and more of his ſingular Art in Reliving the Diſeaſe, ſhall be carefully Diſcover'd in a few Days.

FINIS.

In this Rational Doctor's Practice, there is no room for Conjectures, and the Doctor's Experience, I submit entirely to the Judgment of the Medical Society. I wish too it might be considered, whether the Changes that may happen to this Fever, between Fever and Crisis, may not occasion its purging Quality there, quite otherwise than its Effects are in Fluxes.

This Physician was more successful in curing Fevers, than others in Chronic, whether they were Black or White; and always cured all his Patients by a Cool Regimen. 'Tis only remarkable that a Child of Colonel Fuller's died. He was about twelve Years of Age, had been in a Fever for some time, and was in Convulsions, cold Sweats, &c. when he began to administer. To avoid the chief fatal Symptoms, Fore-runners of unavoidable Death, he had the cool Regimen; he [illegible] with Scarification in the Shoulders, taking away some Blood, [illegible] Hours, by Intervals, increasing, he died or he was cold. Remember an Instance of this kind that happened lately: For one who was managed by Bleeding in the Agony of Convulsions, and cold Sweats, died much after the same manner.

Great Care though was taken to keep young Mr. Fuller from cooling too fast; for he had a little hot Regimen too; Cordials with Confect. Alkerm. Ad. Cinnamon. Syr. Caryophyllor: &c. and Differy with Sp. C. C. & Ol. Succin. A very excellent Medicine for a Differy: May, Some Days, which left more virulent than immerably.

In this, the good Temper of the White Physician is to be commended, that he would try the hot Regimen, he so much declares against, though perhaps too late, when he found this Ingredient was going on under his cold Regimen.

But not to pursue this Melancholly Account any farther; the poor Mother of young Fuller was like to have follow'd her Child into another World, much oppress'd with Grief and Tears, but for a Bottle of Salvamenick, Philosophically Prepar'd by our White Physician. The Secret of which Bottle, and more of his Angular Art in Reliving the Distress, shall be carefully Discover'd in a few Days.

FINIS.